

by President Bush, who dismissed the crisis facing tobacco farm families by saying the current tobacco system does not need to be changed.

Since 1997, tobacco farmers have seen their income cut by over half. Thousands of farm families have been forced out of business. The entire economic background of rural southeast America has been crippled, yet the President says nothing needs to be changed.

Senator KERRY supports a buyout to revitalize our corner of rural America. A buyout would create tens of thousands of jobs in rural America, which are desperately needed.

Time is running out for our tobacco farmers. I call on the Republican leadership in the House and the Congress to follow Senator KERRY's leadership and pass the bipartisan tobacco buyout and restore hope to tobacco country.

REFORMING CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN REGARD TO MEDICAL LIABILITY

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday on the floor of this House, we passed legislation that will once again reform the civil justice system in regards to medical liability. Then the question came up last night during the hours of debate on this House as to how in the world is that going to lower the cost of health insurance for the uninsured.

Well, true enough, lowering the cost of liability insurance will not have a direct effect upon the cost of providing insurance for the uninsured, but certainly removing the embedded cost of the civil justice system and the embedded cost of defensive medicine from the medical justice system will go a great way towards alleviating the crisis in the cost of medical insurance.

It is estimated from a study done in 1996 that \$50 billion a year could be saved in the Medicare program if doctors were not practicing defensive medicine.

The fact of the matter remains, Mr. Speaker, we passed that bill in the House, it is awaiting action on the other side of the Capitol, we have a President right now who will sign that bill, and I think that is an important part for the American people to bear in mind.

STOP CALLING THOSE WHO ASK QUESTIONS UNPATRIOTIC

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, a quote: "I cannot support a failed foreign policy. History teaches us that it is often easier to make war than peace. This administration is just learning that lesson right now. The President

began this mission with very vague objectives and lots of unanswered questions. There is no timetable, there is no legitimate definition of victory, there is no contingency plan for mission creep, there is no clear funding program, there is no agenda to bolster our overextended military, there is no explanation defining what vital national interests are at stake."

Who said that? Not a Democrat, but the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), said that on March 28 of 1999.

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I say, end calling those people who ask questions unpatriotic. Read your own history. Read your own legacy. This is a disgrace, what you did in 1999, and then you accuse us when we ask a question. Read your own literature.

TRIBUTE TO JEREMIAH KIRK JOHNSON

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Today, a special service will be held at the National Peace Officers Memorial to honor those whose devotion resulted in the ultimate expression of Christ-like love: They sacrificed their lives for others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one who gave his life in the service of others. Jeremiah Kirk Johnson, who died in a tragic traffic accident while on duty for the Emery County Sheriff's Department, exemplifies the life of service which I wish to honor.

A devoted husband and father, he spent every spare moment around his children because of his great love for them. At the time of his death, he had been promoted to deputy sheriff in Emery County, and was instrumental in helping to set up the drug court which had the effect of getting drug offenders off the street. He was a giant of a man, yet gentle.

Jeremiah will be missed a lot. He cannot be replaced, but his example can be honored.

He was a model U.S. citizen. He devoted his life to service of our country, and he will be forever remembered as a hero, a son, a husband, and a father.

COVER THE UNINSURED AND SUPPORT KIND SUBSTITUTE

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, as the Congress and the country mark Cover the Uninsured Week, I add my voice to those who are ready to do something meaningful about the problem of the uninsured.

Nearly 80 percent of the uninsured are the working poor, and often work in small businesses. They have jobs and

are trying to do the right thing, but they cannot afford an insurance policy for themselves or for their families.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim that association health plans are the answer, but more than 500 organizations representing millions of people oppose these plans, association health plans, because they know that they will compound the problem by creating an unlevel playing field that will likely lead to cherry-picking, adverse selection, and yes, increased costs for sicker individuals.

I urge my colleagues to support the Kind substitute, which will provide a tax credit to businesses that will pay for 50 percent of the premium for health insurance for their employees.

OFFICERS IN CHARGE IN IRAQ FAILED IN THEIR DUTY

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, as a West Point graduate, and as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves, I am saddened by recent revelations at Abu Ghraib Prison. I am sad and disappointed and feel personally attacked by an organization I hold in high esteem.

The Chaplain said today in his prayer that we seek justice, equity, and freedom. In this case, we failed.

A commander is responsible for all his unit does and fails to do. This is a basic creed of the United States Army.

As the criminal proceedings unfold and those involved receive the consequences of their actions, some officers in charge need to stand up and say, I was in command, and I failed.

IRAQ IMAGES

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the ship of state sails without a rudder.

Increasingly, the world sees our presence in Iraq as an occupation, not a liberation. Any talk of democracy has been replaced with images of brute and brutal force.

The President talks about a superb Cabinet Secretary, but America and the world reel in horror and shame over what was done in the name of defending our country.

If only the administration had paid attention. The Red Cross knew, but the administration would not listen. American leadership and credibility have cratered deeper and deeper, yet the administration remains deaf to what happened and the need to act.

The administration heaps praise on one of its own, even as it seeks to silence the images. They sent him to Iraq, I guess, to get him out of town, but the images have stirred the world. As it has for so long, the world looks to